The Hemp Coalitions' "Almost A Newsletter"

P O Box 2382
Albany NY 12220

Check *Metrolands'* Social Action Calendar for Meetings

March 1994
Vol 4 #2

Selected Testimony from the NYS Assembly hearings on the Rockefeller Drug Laws 20 years later.

Testimony of NORML's Ed Hughes:

Mr. Hughes: Prohibition causes drug abuse.

"Prohibition goes beyond the bounds of reason in that it attempts to control a man's appetite by legislation and makes a crime out of things that are not crimes. A prohibition law strikes a blow at the very principles upon which our government was founded." A quote from Abraham Lincoln.

Humans and all other creatures with awareness have basic drives which include hunger, thirst, sex and the urge to change their mind, to change their conscienceness temporarily. Elephants seek fermented fruit, birds seek certain berries and seeds, cats enjoy catnip, small children spin around until they get dizzy to change their minds. Every species studied has this drive, so the idea of a drug-free society is absurd, especially when promoted and financed by the alcohol, tobacco and pharmaceutical industries and their propaganda machine, the fraudulently named Partnership for a Drug-Free America.

Instead of using plants, which have never killed anyone, we use injurious lethal but legal substances and concentrated chemical poisons which kill half a million- think about that- a half million people every year. A neighbor of yours may be blocks or miles away but still a neighbor. One or two or three people in every thousand every year dead. Some people may claim they don't use any drugs, but how many of them are addicted to what Karl Marx called the opiate of the masses, organized religion, which has killed far more people than all plants and chemicals combined.

The most useful plant on the planet is as American as apple pie, towns were named for it, most of our homespun clothing and the sails for our ships were made from it, as were our first flags-- Don't Tread on Me. During some Colonial times it was illegal not to attempt to grow it. Bibles were printed on paper made from it. It was and still is the most effective medicine for many ailments. It is the most highly evolved plant on the planet. What higher goal could it have than to be useful to the animal at the top of the food chain and help that animal become the most highly evolved species on the planet.

Ghandi said that if God were to appear to a starving human it would be in the form of food. If God has appeared to us as a plant, surely it is Hemp. But Hemp-Cannabis Sativa- was competition for synthetics, so we the people were brain polluted into hating and fearing it. So now that it's slang name causes too many of us to react as if they'd seen Dracula, it was outlawed. A prosecutor said of it, "We don't want that kind of society in this country." Now people are persecuted for having anything to do with it, even research. They're being imprisoned, their homes and properties are being stolen. How long until they're burned at the stake again? How long until you are dragged away, guilty or not.

Equally incredible are the legendary benevolent properties of a wine made from the divine plant of the Incas. In its natural form the coca leaf is self-limiting, thanks to its other constituents. Pope Leo XIII regularly enjoyed Vin Mariani and gave a gold medal to its creator, Angelo Mariani and declared him a benefactor to humanity. His successor did likewise after Leo died at the age of 97. Despite all this it was outlawed by the Harrison Act of 1914.

Also forbidden is the African vine iboga which has been proven effective in curing both heroin and cocaine addiction. It has been forbidden for 30 years, ever since the government was informed about its wonderful potential. Prohibition of plants causes synthetic and organic concentrated white powder chemical poisons, cause abuse, devastation and death.

"Protect the children." How? "They recognize the normality of the human drive to experience altered states of conscienceness periodically and the prominence of the drive in growing children. Rather than try to thwart that expression of this need, the Indians choose to introduce children to these experiences by letting them try drugs under supervision. Supervision is provided by the tribal expert in such matters, usually the [shaman]. It is noteworthy that the [shaman] is a drug expert solely by virtue of his familiarity with states of conscienceness induced by drugs, he is

The Hemp Coalitions' "Almost A Newsletter"

P O Box 2382
Albany NY 12220

Check *Metrolands'* Social Action Calendar for Meetings

March 1994
Vol 4 #2

considered qualified to guide others through these experiences." Clues from the Amazon in *The Natural Mind* by Andrew Weil.

Instead American parents drink the distilled urine of bacteria, alcohol, in private and in public and let the children discover it for themselves. The urine which kills over 100,000 people every year. They also let their children become addicted to the most radioactive, most carcinogenic, most addictive plant on the planet, tobacco, available in vending machines.

What about the cost of this war against human nature? We could turn our apparently doomed economy around with better living through more use of nature and less use of chemistry. Instead of committing genocide against the most useful plant on the planet, we should grow it and provide jobs and growing, harvesting, processing and distribution of Hemp fiber for textiles, clothing and housing, pulp for paper, seeds for food and oil, flowers for medicine and recreation, leaves for fuel, an estimated over 50,000 commercial uses.

Instead of smuggling chemical poisons into the Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave, why not import the fresh leaves and pure extract of the divine plant of the Incas?

Because, "The law is an ass, an idiot." Charles Dickens wrote that over one hundred years ago. The only laws which are reasonable and proper regarding your right to change your mind already exist in disorderly persons and similar statutes, truth in packing laws and laws protecting children.

America's media have virtually ignored the re-legalization--because that's what it is--re-legalization of botanicals and synthetics occuring in a significant number of civilized countries around the world--Switzerland,Germany,Italy,Net herlands, to name a few. Public opinion polls here in America, once the land of the free and the home of the brave, indicate that a growing number, now nearly half, of our people realize society would be better off if everyone were free to choose whether or not they change their minds. Given the facts, everyone except incurable Puritans and Statists would vote for freedom and responsibility. We cynics suspect that when the polls indicate a majority of We the People favor freedom, no more polls will be taken.

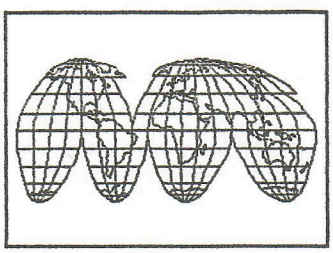
I wonder how Americans 200 plus years ago who fought and killed and died for freedom and less taxes would feel about two legged sheep begging to be taxed for enjoying a natural urge. The Most Useful Plant on the Planet should be so omnipresent that The Flowers are Free.

I'd like to give you a copy of a book, *The Authoritative Historical Record of the Cannabis Plant,Its Prohibition and How Hemp Can Still Save the World.* There's a string attached. You have to agree to read it, you and not one of your subordinates or aids. And the reason I'm giving it to you is because when you have that information if you conceal it you'll be guilty of a crime against humanity, and at the next Neuremburg tribunal I don't want the accused claiming they didn't know. I was only following orders should not be an acceptable defense. We need to not only re-legalize substances, to abolish not only the Rockefeller law, but all laws which deprive people of their rights and freedoms.

There's a far worse law than the Rockefeller drug laws. The forfeiture laws which encourage the federal gestapo and local blue bludgeons to steal people's property. The government is becoming fiscally addicted to forfeiture. And just how much more will we the people tolerate?

Jefferson wrote that "The spirit of resistance must be preserved in the people." And it has been, at Ruby Creek and Waco and elsewhere. The Waco massacre will be the gernica of Big Brother's war against we the people. I used to wonder when we should take up weapons against the government. It's obvious, when they come to take our guns, that's the time to use our guns against the government.

Assy Lentol: Thank you Ed.



More on Mayor Schmoke's Drug Policy Conference.

The Hemp Coalitions' "Almost A Newsletter"

P O Box 2382
Albany NY 12220

Check *Metrolands'* Social Action Calendar for Meetings

March 1994
Vol 4 #2

The *Village Voice*, December 21,1993 issue, had a story by Cynthia Cotts on the conference. The article was extremely well written (only if I had such talent) and contained some interesting facts. The first thing that caught my attention was that the task force responsible for getting the whole thing together was funded by private money. Some of the names mentioned were: George Soros; one of the richest men in the world, Jim Rouse; a Baltimore developer and Robert Embry of the Abell Foundation. This is an encouraging development in that, if the business world gets behind harm reduction it will show the politicians that it is not only fringe (and I hate to call our group fringe) groups interested in changing drug policy but people that the pols can relate too.

And although the route they are looking at is the harm reduction path and not legalization it can still bode well for the Cannabis people. In as much as all the places that are trying harm reduction have separated Cannabis from other drugs. Thus in itself a defacto legalization. It seems that the L-word is just to much for most people to handle. And for these people (politicians mainly) the words harm reduction has a better ring to it.

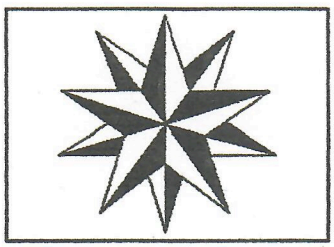
Cynthia reports that Baltimore has plans to expand treatment slots and create a needle exchange program. In addition to a drug court based on the one in Miami. In Miami addicts facing jail, in jail or heading back to the streets can get treatment if they meet three criteria: one-they must be non violent; two-not sociopaths and three-they must want treatment. The last is very important in my mind because as we all know you can't force a person into something that you don't want to do. Miami's numbers show promise in that sixty percent of the addicts offered the treatment route have by all accounts kicked their habits.

Also Cynthia reports that New Haven, Conn. another city that is backing away from the drug war rhetoric has shown a forty-two percent drop in shootings and only half as many murders as the year before, in part due to their needle exchange program and treatment and community policing.

And at the conference was the Attorney General of Columbia, Gustavo de Greiff Restrepo, who called for a legalized/regulated market. A statement by the way which in his country "would disrespect the cocaine kings, who have killed judges for lesser slights."

As Cynthia wrote in her article "Talking about legalization is risky, as risky as taking a hit of LSD. Depending on the individual, the response might range from enlightenment to psychosis." as Jocyelyn Elders and Mayor Schmoke can both attest to. Mayor Schmoke was "in 1988, denounced in Congress as, ' "the most dangerous man in America." And Joycelyn Elders call for a study of the question of legalization was met with calls for her resignation. So it seems that free speech or thoughts different than the current state of affairs is not to be tolerated. Lack of tolerance is becoming a major problem, it has people afraid to speak up or put in their own thoughts.

So I'll end this little bit with hope. It looks as if there is light at the end of the tunnel. But only if the movement is persistent.



I was just thinking!

by Kilgore Trout

I was watching the *Andy Griffith Show* the other night and was struck by the two approaches to law enforcement that the show gave. On one hand you had Barney Fife and his hard headed/iron fisted approach. And on the other hand you get Sheriff Andy and his 'soft' approach, by that I mean that he rather talk his way out of a situation rather than resort to violence or strong arm his way out of the situations. The show puts it all together so beautifully. Barney and his bungling ways as opposed to Andy and his good spirit. Barney always causing trouble with his hard nose approach and then Andy comes in and cleans up Barney's mess by using his good intentions to see that the

The Hemp Coalitions' "Almost A Newsletter"

P O Box 2382
Albany NY 12220

Check *Metrolands'* Social Action Calendar for Meetings

March 1994
Vol 4 #2

higher truth of justice is served in each situation. Does the fight fire with fire approach really work? I know I don't know the answer to that one. But I sure do like the way Andy handles lifes complications better than the Barney approach. What is needed in law enforcement is more Andys and less Barneys, then there would be more respect from the public for what is law enforcements role in policing society. Of course all the above is predicated on ending the Prohibitions (drug,gambling and sex) and a new approach to teaching the children would help. An education not only of the three R's but one that includes tolerance and understanding of the different life choices people make. Because without tolerance of other peoples choices in life then people will feel they have the right to force their ways of life on those who don't live as they do. And that is not the way the United States came into being. The U.S. came into existence from the very ideas of tolerance and understanding or at least accepting that others have the right to live as they choose as long as they are not physically harming another or their property. Which England was not doing for their people in the Colonies. And thus we had the Revolution and the people were again free, at least for a few years anyway. Until the government got too big and dependant on the very taxes that disgruntled the populace in the first place. What am I getting to, who knows. All I am saying is that I think the second revolution is near and this time we won't be fighting a foe across the sea but our own neighbors and families just to attain human rights and a chance to live a dignified life without the threat of jail or forced treatment hanging over one's head.

Saw this next piece in *Entertainment Weekly* about Cheech Marin. Quoting from the article-'Recent accounts of marijuana's comeback haven't made Marin change his mind about leaving drug humor behind. "Pot never went away, it just kept growing and growing," he says. "People don't even consider pot a drug-I don't."

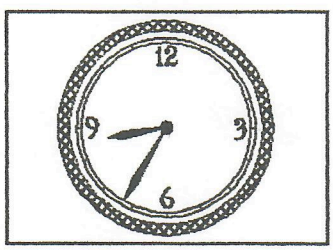
"Laws which can be broken without any wrong to one's neighbor are a laughing-stock;and such laws, instead of restraining the appetites and lusts of [human]kind, serve rather to heighten them. *Nitimur in vetitum semper, cupimusque negata.* [we always resist prohibitions, and yearn for what is denied us.]Spinoza 1632-1677

I just came across an article in one of the local papers on how the Canadian government is seeing a marked increase in the smuggling of cigarettes. And it is due to the high rate of tax that the government imposes on the sale of cigarettes there. It was reported that the local police chief has received death threats and that the are shootings nightly.

Canadian taxes on cigarettes are five times that of the US. Raising the price of a carton to around $45. While across the border in the US they cost about $20. How long did the Canadian government think people would stand for such excessive taxes?

What causes crime? Well deducing from this story I would say that excessive taxes are the main culprit here. So the simple answer to reducing crime in this instance is to reduce the amount of tax levied on butts to bring the Canadian price in line with that of the US/New York prices. Which I might add are also much too high.

The February 2 Times-Union gives an update on the above--and that is that the Canadian government has just slashed its tax on tobacco. While most people hailed this as a means to reduce the violence that has been increasing of late, there were some that said this move would encourage smoking and drive up health cost, such as the health minister of British Columbia--whose province has rejected the tax cut. Now we know where to set up a new tobacco black market. What would they rather live with, violence or that some may be tempted to smoke because the prices are lower?



The Great Debate Begins-----

The Hemp Coalitions' "Almost A Newsletter"

P O Box 2382
Albany NY 12220

Check *Metrolands'* Social Action Calendar for Meetings

March 1994
Vol 4 #2

College of Saint Rose holds the New Yorkers for Drug Policy Reform second debate--Albany,NY--The night of January 19,1994 was a frigidly cold night here in Albany with the temperature hovering around the minus 2 degree mark. The city streets were under a snow removal emergency. This meaning that limited parking space would be further limited. But even with nature and government making the odds of getting to the debate extreme, there were about 100 plus brave souls in attendance. The red carpeted, red chaired hall the debate was held in was a warm and comfortable setting with the stage set for the nights debate, that being a podium on either side of the stage and a table in the middle for the moderator. Benita Zahn of TV13's Health Matters was the one in the middle. On her right was Peter Christ a retired police captain from Tonawanda NY and his opposition for the night was Tom Marcelle, the 1993 Republican candidate for Albany County DA. Ms. Zahn opened the night by setting down the format for the debate, and Ms Zahn said that judging by the time she spent with the two earlier on the news at noon-this should be an enjoyable experience.

Mr Marcelle got to open the night with a few minute speech on how legalizing drugs would not be in societies best interest because through legalization you wold be creating more addicts and thus be putting more of a burden on the taxpaying people in this land when these extra addicts end up stealing to pay for there drugs. [This in itself is a good argument for legalization, in that with a legal/regulated market the price of hard drugs could be a such a level that no one would have to steal to pay for their habit.] He also said that the addict usually ends up on welfare and thus further victimizes the taxpayer. Of course this type of thinking could be extending to the point where those born with birth defects and the very old are euthanatized because they cost the 'Taxpayer' money. Who decides where tax money is to go-social programs, that could ultimately benefit society- or no money to anyone while society runs amok? There has to be a happy middle ground somewhere.

Mr Christs' turn was next and he said that the last eighty years of Prohibition has been a dismal failure and that the situation was not going to be remedied by keeping drugs outlawed. Mr Christ then said that if the drug war was referred to as Prohibition as it really is then the American public would stand up and call for its end immediately. But by referring to it as a 'war' this fires up the public because we have always loved a good -sometimes even a bad - war.

Tom Marcelle did say that he thought mandatory minimums were not a good idea. That was a bright spot in defense of Prohibition that came from him. But he also said the he thought 'shock incarceration camps' were a viable route for those under thirty who have no violence in their past. Mr Christ let Mr Marcelle know that 'a rose by any other name'...that a concentration camp is concentration camp whether its the nazis doing it or the USA. And Mr Christ further stated that the DARE program was just like the education the German youth received, in that they were taught to turn in their parents for violations of the third reich laws, whether it was for reading the wrong books or liking the wrong people, some of the German youth back then took punishment into their own hands and would shoot their own parents. Is this behavior taught in the DARE program--who knows since the teaching materials are not available to anyone. So it is a grand tradition that the DARE program follows!

-

The most oft asked question THC gets is "What can I do to help?" Well the first thing THC will tell you is:

Become a member of NORML. Memberships support basic activities such as:

»Providing the public and the media with truthful information about marijuana and marijuana laws.
»Training activists.
»Organizing members into locally based action networks.
»Providing legal referrals for marijuana-related Problems. Supporting court challenges to marijuana laws.

The second thing THC will tell you is to: **Become a NORML activist.**

The Hemp Coalitions' "Almost A Newsletter"

P O Box 2382
Albany NY 12220

Check *Metrolands'* Social Action Calendar for Meetings

March 1994
Vol 4 #2

NORML Activists work to educate the public and persuade politicians that marijuana laws need to be reformed.

NORML compiles and publishes materials designed to promote successful advocacy.

Available materials include:

»The NORML Activist Packet - fundamentals of marijuana activism and the NORML Activist Program.($15)

»The Medical Marijuana Packet-background materials on the controversy over marijuana's medical properties and related litigation. ($15)

The third option is to: Become a financial supporter of NORML.

NORML can do a lot with ideas, research and the dedication of its supporters. But let's be realistic--NORML has taken on a formidable task which requires a lot of money.

NORML is dependent on annual or monthly contributions to expand its activities.

Members who pledge as little as $5 a month have a major impact on NORML's daily operational capability.

NORML has special monthly publications for financial supporters.

▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼▼

On February 2,1994 there was a general interest meeting held at the Albany Public Library to determine if there is enough interest to start a NORML chapter here in Albany. There were twenty people in attendance. Discussions were held to answer questions about NORML and how a chapter would benefit this areas relegalization movement. It was determined that there is sufficient interest to apply for chapter membership. The process has been initiated with NORML and now THC awaits NORMLs' response. At the meeting the group found that a few NORML members in Schoharie have obtained chapter status-we here in Albany wish them luck! Look in following newsletters for updates on the status of our chapter application.

▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲▲

↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓↓

This lifted from *The Capital District Libertarian,Jan. 94'*

"A recent poll conducted by Prodigy, a computer information and mail service, asked peoples' opinion on drug related crime. 53% of the 61,071 respondents thought that legalizing drugs would reduce crime. The poll was in response to Surgeon General Joycelyn Elders recent remarks and Bill Clinton's quick dismissal of her idea. An even greater majority, 61%, agreed that the idea deserved further debate. This was not a random sample, but the respondents generally reflect better educated and better informed citizens, some of whom may be those 'opinion makers' we're always after."

Editors note;The Surgeon General has stood behind her call for further study of re-legalization, even after repeated calls for her removal from office.

↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑↑

JJJJJJJJJJJJJJJJJ

A Whole 'Hemp' Catalog?

POINT Foundation, publishers of *Whole Earth Review* magazine and creators of the many incarnations of *The Whole Earth Catalog*, has announced that it plans to create in the fall of 1994 a new *Millennium Whole Earth Catalog*. Quote;"...for the last crucial years of the 20th century."

They have also issued an appeal to the inhabitants of planet Earth for ideas/suggestions to be included in this important publication.

The time is ripe for the first 'tree-free' hemp paper *Whole Earth Catalog*. At the very least, the incredibly versatile Cannabis/hemp plant deserves its own special section in this catalog.

Please write the POINT Foundation at:

Whole Earth Catalog
P O Box 38
Sausalito CA 94966

Tell them the time is now for Hemp, include fact sheets or news paper clippings. Don't let this opportunity pass by.
WRITE TODAY!!!

ſſſſſſſſſſſſſſſſſ

Looking for a great Drug Policy group to join? Well look no further-The Drug Policy Foundation is the group that you have been looking for. This group located in the nations capital is as far as I can tell, the most effective voice for re-legalization (all drugs) than any other around. For $25 you will receive a one year subscription to their newsletter-*The Drug Policy Letter*- that is chock full of only the best and most reliable information available.